



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/501,624	07/15/2004	Rauno Rantanen	FORSAL-92	2220
36528	7590	03/20/2006		
STIENNONS & STIENNONS			EXAMINER	
612 W. MAIN ST., SUITE 201			TADESSE, YEWEBDAR T	
P.O. BOX 1667				
MADISON, WI 53701-1667			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1734	

DATE MAILED: 03/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/501,624	RANTANEN, RAUNO
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Yewebdar T. Tadesse	1734

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 21-32 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 25-32 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 21-23 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 24 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

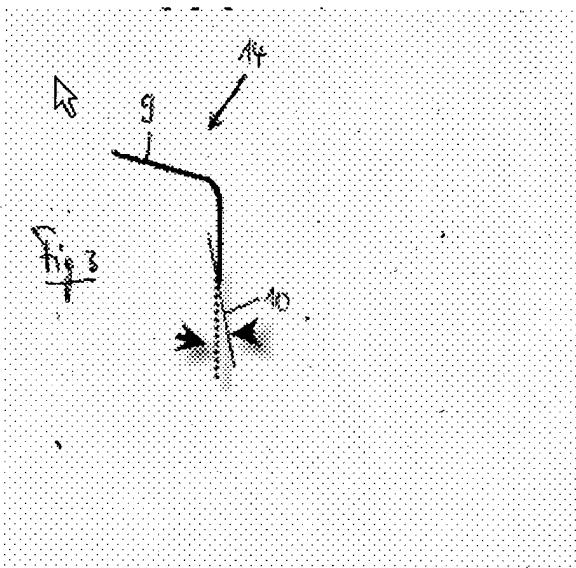
1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 01/02098 A1 in view of EP 1 2090274 A2 and DE 3333592 A1.

WO'098 discloses an apparatus for feeding a coating agent onto a moving surface comprising: a feed apparatus having at least one feed chamber (3), the feed chamber having at least one inlet opening (borings 18) for the treating agent and at least one outlet opening (borings 20) for the treating agent; at least one nozzle plate 96) having portions forming a plurality of holes (openings 10) which communicate with the at least one outlet opening of the at least one feed chamber, wherein the plurality of holes are arranged to form downwards moving jets of treating agent. WO'098 lacks teaching a first inclined surface receiving the treating agent directly from the holes in the

at least one nozzle plate and a second inclined surface receiving the treating agent from the first inclined surface and wherein the lower end of the second inclined plate rests against the moving surface. However, EP'274 discloses (see Figs 3-4 and English translated Abstract) an apparatus for feeding a coating agent onto a moving surface comprising a feeding apparatus (applicator 12) and inclined surface or guide (22, 322, 322) receiving a coating agent from the applicator and rests against the moving surface (U) or the scraping edge lying on the moving substrate. DE'592 discloses (see Figs 1 and 3, particularly see Fig 3) a first downwards sloping inclined surface (9), having a first inclined direction, the first inclined surface positioned to receive the treating agent directly from the holes in the at least one nozzle plate, the first inclined surface forming a downwards sloping flow path on which an even laminar treating agent flow may be formed, the first inclined surface having portions forming a lowermost edge; and a second inclined (10) surface having an incline direction opposite to the first inclined direction, the lowermost edge of the first inclined surface being spaced from the second inclined surface so the second inclined surface can receive a laminar flow of treating agent from the first inclined surface and the second inclined surface having a trailing edge which extends to a distance below the feed apparatus and an upper end which extends to the level of or above the lowermost edge of the first inclined surface, wherein the second inclined surface (10) is arranged so as to define a gap (see the two arrows showing the defined gap on the enclosed Fig 3) between the lowermost edges of the first inclined surface(9) and the second inclined surface. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a first

surface receiving the treating agent directly from the holes in the at least one nozzle plate and a second inclined surface receiving the treating agent from the first inclined surface having the features as claimed in WO'098 to produce an especially thin film as taught by DE'592 (see English translated Abstract). It would have also been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a lower end of the inclined plate rests against the moving surface in WO'098 to scrape or push the coating material along the moving surface.



Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 21-23 are allowed.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: see reasons for allowance described on the action mailed on 10/05/2005.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 12/30/2005 (re claim 24) have been fully considered but they are not persuasive because as described above WO'098 in view of EP'274 and DE'592 discloses the claimed limitations including the gap (see enclosed Fig 3 of DE'592). The examiner withdraws the 112 2nd paragraph rejections.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yewebdar T. Tadesse whose telephone number is (571)

272-1238. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00 AM-4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Fiorilla can be reached on (571) 272-1187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lewellen R F
YTT

Chris Fiorilla
CHRIS FIORILLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
Art 1734